(b) if so, what are the salient features of the other recommendations made by the working group and what is the decision, if any, taken by Government tncreon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Working Group has not yet submitted its report.

(b) Does not arise.

Seizure of Gold

3438. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gold weighing 90 kgs. valued Rs. 2.78 crores have been seized in the Capital on the 21st July, 1988 as reported in •the Hindu' of the 22nd July, 1988;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any arrests have been made in this connection and if so, what action has been taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The Officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have seized 772 gold biscuits weighing 10 tolas each and collectively valued at Rs. 2.79 crores approximately on 19th 120th July, 1988 from three trucks which were intercepted at Matheri and Kurukshera in Haryana.

(c) 10 persons found to be involved in these cases were arrested and also detainedunder the provisions of the Conserve Hon of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974**.**

Sale of Gold by Bharat Gold Mines Limited

3439. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Gold Mines Limited has recently been permitted by Government to sell gold in open market; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is a part of a package of measures taken by the Government for making the operations of the Com pany viable in future.

Protection of wildlife from Natural Calamities

3440. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that serious drought which prevailed during, the last two consecutive years had affected wildlife in various parts of the country;

(b)if so, what are the details *in* this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to take some measures to ensure that wild'ife may not be affected due to natural calamities and if *so,* what amount has been allocated for this purpose so far'